

For Immediate Release

Media Contact Tyneisha Harden, Mayor's Office 645-2425

**Mayor Michael B. Coleman Presents
MOMENTUM**

the 12th Mayor's Small Business Conference & Expo

Registration is now open. 2014 Conference highlights best practices from Ohio cities.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, AUGUST 19, 2014 —Registration is now open for the 12th Mayor's Small Business Conference & Expo. This year's summit of small business enterprises will take place October 8 – 9, 2014 at the Hilton Columbus Downtown and the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Presented by Mayor Michael B. Coleman, the two-day conference provides attendees with an opportunity to develop and showcase their entrepreneurial skills and business offerings through interactive workshops, plenary sessions and an exposition featuring a new small business resource center.

Under Mayor Coleman's leadership, the City of Columbus has contracted with companies big and small for nearly one half billion dollars.

"We are proud to continue offering unique opportunities for small businesses to learn about ways they can do business with the City of Columbus," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "Columbus is a city that means business, and by equipping our small, minority and female business owners with the tools for success, we are encouraging economic vitality and sustainability that will not only benefit small businesses, but benefit the city as a whole."

This year's conference theme is *MOMENTUM* and features best practices in entrepreneurial development, support and strategies from across the state that are powering small businesses to new levels of success. With an estimated attendance of over 700 business leaders and professionals, seating is limited and interested attendees are encouraged to register early.

Programming for the two-day conference highlights:

- Networking with business leaders, speakers, panelists and buyers from Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland who will share their professional expertise and contracting opportunities
- Opening plenary session highlighting key regional trends and new market opportunities for small businesses
- 13 Workshops
- Exhibitor Expo featuring the new Small Business Resource Center that offers small business owners the opportunity for one-on-one consultation from business support and financial services organizations

The US Women's Chamber of Commerce estimated that in 2014 women own more than 9 million firms, employing nearly 7.9 million people and generating \$1.4 trillion in sales. Columbus is contributing to that growth with three of the of the 2014 Fastest-Growing Women-Owned/Led Companies Worldwide according to the Women President's Organization. The Mayor's Women's Business Forum "*Women, Wealth and Power: Transforming our Communities through Business Ownership*" celebrates the gains women entrepreneurs have made in Columbus. The Forum will feature Lisa Price, CEO and Founder of Carol's Daughter, skincare and beauty products. With annual revenues estimated around \$40 million Carol's Daughter products are sold at Target, Ulta, Macy's and the Home Shopping Network (HSN).

On Thursday, the conference will also proudly host Central Ohio's thriving business community in the Small Business Expo. There, business owners will have the opportunity to profile their products and services and meet with the members of City departments including Purchasing and the Equal Business Opportunity office team to learn more about the City's plans to increase citywide utilization of certified small businesses.

Early Bird registration is \$50. To register or learn more about the Mayor Coleman's Small Business Conference, please visit www.columbus.gov/MSBC, on Twitter at #MSBC14.

About Mayor Coleman's Small Business Conference & Expo The MSBC&E is two-day conference and exposition, offering business development, purposeful networking and resources for local entrepreneurs, suppliers and business leaders. Created in 2002 and hosted by Mayor Michael B. Coleman, the event drives local economic growth by supporting small business creation, inclusion and sustainability in the City of Columbus.

About Lisa Price www.carolsdaughter.com/aboutus/lisastory